

Application No. 09/635,011
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 6 and 11 have been amended to correct some minor antecedent basis problems.

In addition, claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the regional information is regional image information, as recited in claims 1 and 6.

Clearly, no new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,564,070 ("Nagamine et al") and USP 6,006,089 ("Sasaki et al"); and claims 11, 13-15 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Nagamine et al, Sasaki et al and USP 6,600,930 ("Sakurai et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

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RE: Independent Claims 1 and 6

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, a communication device is provided which comprises mail creation means for creating an electronic mail; detecting means for detecting a current position of the communication device; storing means for storing regional image information specific to areas; and transmission means for reading from the storing means the regional image information corresponding to the area of the detected current position, and for attaching the regional image information to the electronic mail and transmitting the electronic mail with the regional image information attached thereto, when the communication device is set in an image attachment mode.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 6, moreover, a radio communication system is provided which comprises a communication terminal corresponding to the communication device recited in claim 1, and a cell station connected to the communication terminal via a radio channel.

Thus, according to both independent claims 1 and 6, the transmission means of the communication device (terminal) reads an image from the storage means as regional image information corresponding to the area of the detected current position. In addition, according to independent claims 1 and 6, the regional image information is attached to an electronic mail and the

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electronic mail with the image attached thereto are transmitted, when the communication device (terminal) is set in an image attachment mode.

By contrast, according to Nagamine et al, the area of an image input apparatus is determined based on a base station identification code (CS-ID) received from a base station. If a position data addition mode is set and if position information (a location name) corresponding to the base station identification code is registered in the image input apparatus, according to Nagamine et al, then the location name may be added to an image captured in the area. In addition, according to Nagamine et al, the image having the location name attached thereto may be transmitted by the image input apparatus.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that according to Nagamine et al, an image input apparatus may recognize its location based on a base station identification code transmitted from a nearby base station, and a location name corresponding to the area may be added to an image captured in the area (if the base station identification code corresponds to a location name registered in the image input apparatus).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Nagamine et al merely discloses adding a location name to an image.

By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 6, regional image information is read

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out from storing means based on the area of the detected current position of the communication device (terminal), and the regional image information is attached to electronic mail.

And it is respectfully submitted that the text image labeling technique disclosed by Nagamine et al does not correspond to the feature of the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 6 whereby the transmission means attaches regional image information to an electronic mail and transmits the electronic mail with the regional image information attached thereto, when the communication device (terminal) is set in an image attachment mode.

In addition, it is noted that Sasaki et al merely teaches an identification code detection unit for detecting station identification codes (CS-ID) included in respective radio waves received at a measuring location, wherein the CS-ID codes represent cell stations which transmit the radio waves.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 6, as well as claims 3-5 and 8-10 depending therefrom, patentably distinguishes over Nagamine et al and Sasaki et al under 35 USC 103.

RE: Independent Claim 11

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 11, a radio communication system is provided which

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comprises a communication terminal and a service center. The communication terminal recited in claim 11 comprises mail creation means for creating an electronic mail, detecting means for detecting a current position of the communication terminal, and transmission means for attaching position information indicating the current position detected by the detecting means to the electronic mail and transmitting the electronic mail with the position information attached thereto to the service center.

In addition, the service center recited in claim 11 comprises storing means for storing regional information specific to positions of the terminal, reading means for reading from the storing means the regional information corresponding to the position information attached to the electronic mail and attaching the regional information to the electronic mail, and means for transmitting the electronic mail with the regional information attached thereto.

As explained hereinabove with respect to claims 1 and 6, it is respectfully submitted that Nagamine et al does not disclose, teach or suggest reading out regional image information corresponding to position information of a communication terminal and attaching the regional image information to an electronic mail, as recited in independent claim 11.

As acknowledged by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action, moreover, Nagamine et al does not disclose, teach or

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suggest a service center as recited in independent claim 11. For this reason, the Examiner has cited Sakurai et al to supply the missing teachings of Nagamine et al.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Sakurai et al merely discloses providing requested information to terminals such as PHS terminals via a server, and facilitating electronic mail and facsimile transmissions from terminals such as PHS terminals via a server. And it is respectfully submitted that Sakurai et al does not disclose, teach or suggest receiving an electronic mail at the server, adding information to the electronic mail, and transmitting the electronic mail with the information added thereto.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Sakurai et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the service center of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 11, which comprises storing means for storing regional information specific to positions of the terminal, reading means for reading from the storing means the regional image information corresponding to the position information attached to the electronic mail and attaching the regional image information to the electronic mail, and means for transmitting the electronic mail with the regional image information attached thereto.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 11, as well as claims 13-22 depending therefrom, clearly

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patentably distinguish over the combination of Nagamine et al,
Sasaki et al, and Sakurai et al under 35 USC 103.

RE: FINALITY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

The Examiner asserts on page 6 of the Office Action that the Office Action has been made final because "[a]pplicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection."

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that in the Supplemental Amendment filed on August 27, 2004, claims 1, 6 and 11 were amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2, 7 and 12, respectively. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 11 in the Supplemental Amendment filed on October 11, 2004 were clarifying in nature only.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the new grounds of rejection were not necessitated by the amendments to the claims, and it is respectfully requested that the finality of the Office Action mailed December 14, 2004, be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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